

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

WHY?

A note appeared in the Glen Ridge column of THE CITIZEN last week calling attention to a habit, peculiar to the residents of the neighboring town of Montclair, of distributing themselves through the whole train each morning, taking the seats next the windows and holding them against all comers.

The habit is about as old as Montclair. Twenty years ago so abominable did the nuisance become, that the Rail Road Company was compelled to run a locked car from Montclair to Bloomfield. We are sorry to say, that from observation, as well as information, we believe the habit has as strong a hold of the citizens of Montclair as ever.

The Montclair man seems to shun the society of his fellow townsmen and retreats to the corner of his seat next the window in ever apparent readiness to jump out.

What is there about a Montclair man so repugnant to those who know him, that he must always sit alone until he gets away from home and only hypotheses are possible, we can only guess. Is Montclair so large that in the whole town no two men know each other? Or is it the fact that no man lives long enough in Montclair to make the acquaintance of his neighbors? Or is it because they know each other so well that they feel like keeping out of each other's reach? Or are there factions in the aristocratic circles of our neighbor and does one side of the car hold the Capulets and the other the Montagues, each ready to jump out of the window if the other moves? Or is it because the Montclair man feels that he is a superior being and wishes to diffuse his benign influence as widely as possible among the citizens of the neighboring towns? We cannot say which of these reasons moves the Montclair man to remain immovable, but one thing we are sure of, and that is, that whatever the reason is, it must be a good one, and that it is not a selfish desire for his own comfort that leads the Montclair gentleman to cling to his corner next the window in each seat while other gentlemen are compelled to separate themselves from their friends and wives because no two sittings can be found together.

No such unworthy motive, we are persuaded, ever finds lodgment in the breast of our aristocratic, high-toned neighbors on the west. But what is the reason? If they would only explain, it would undoubtedly be so clear and sound that we would all rejoice in adding the philanthropic Montclair man, even at our own discomfort, and never even think of hinting that a real gentleman would not insist on a lady leaving her husband to sit beside him.

DOGS.

A correspondent, in our last issue, complains of the number of dogs at Glen Ridge. We wish that we could say that that favored locality had a monopoly of that kind of nuisance, but truth compels the admission that Bloomfield is no Goshen in that respect, and that the plague of dogs has visited it also.

Now we do not wish to be misunderstood as being a hater of that valuable and useful animal, far from it; we know dogs that in the exercise of many of the Christian virtues can give points to most men, and to no one is the dog, when of the right quality and in reasonable quantity, more attractive than to us. But there can be too much of so good a thing even as dogs, and we think that if the owners of more than one dog would sell the surplus and contribute the proceeds to some deserving charity, say toward gravelling Ridgewood avenue, it would lead to an immediate improvement in public morals, especially in the way of reducing profanity to a minimum.

All those who enjoy a humorous lecture

should not miss Col. Wright's "What I know about politics," next Tuesday evening at Dodd's Hall. Col. Wright has been listened to with great delight by large and critical audiences in the neighboring town of Newark, and Bloomfielders are promised a treat which should not be missed. This is a particularly fine opportunity for the ladies to get an inside view of politics. Let us give the Colonel such a welcome that both he and we may be proud of it.

Rev. Dr. Seibert has not invited the Pierson Post G. A. R.—as a Montclair paper had it—come to the German Church Sunday before Decoration Day. It was Dr. Seibert who was invited by son Post to preach to them. It is not generally known that Dr. Seibert was, during the war, pastor of two churches, one in Chambersburg, Pa., preaching there in the morning, and one in Hagerstown, Md., holding service there in the afternoon of every Sabbath. He also witnessed the burning of Chambersburg, and has written a number of essays on war-topics, which at the time were considered of much interest.

Evidently Professor Riley, the eminent entomologist, has no faith whatever in the so-called sulphur treatment for the destruction of the elm tree beetles. The Board of Trade of Newark, conscious of the financial depreciation of city property that undoubtedly results from the destruction of the grand old elms that shade many of its principal streets, sent for Prof. Riley, and had him deliver an address on this very subject. The avowed intent was, if possible, to find some method of saving the elm trees. But while Prof. Riley gave a very instructive address on the habits of the elm tree beetles and other insects that injure the trees, he had little to say concerning the best way to kill the beetles.

It will be seen that the highest authority in the land virtually surrenders to the elm tree beetle and leaves us little hope in any invented method of dealing with them. Spraying the trees is expensive, and it must of necessity be ineffectual. Where one tree is sprayed there will be thousands that cannot be so treated. And if every tree in every city were so treated there are ten times as many in the country that are untouched, but which breed their myriads of beetles. The sulphur treatment is simply folly, and unless nature herself shall provide some parasite to destroy the elm tree beetle, there seems to be little or no hope for our beautiful trees. But whatever good may accrue from the spraying is to be gained by doing it now. This is the season when the trees may be treated to best advantage.—Elizabeth Journal.

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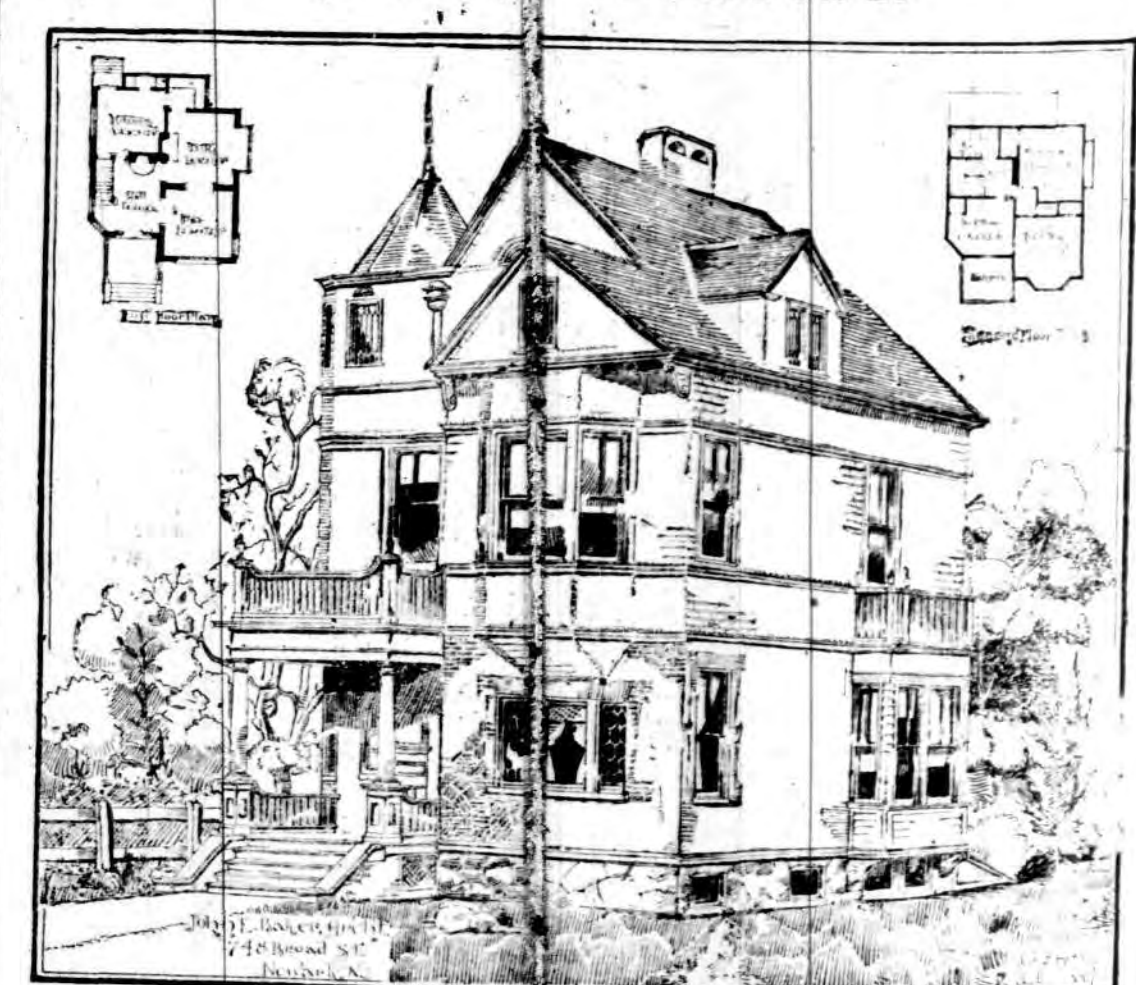
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